



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 23, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Quality Building Stone, Amis #1 Quarry, Unpermitted Site S/049/038, Utah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 26, 2002, and October 18, 2002

Time of Inspection: 5:45 to 6:30 and 3:00 to 4:45 p.m., respectively

Conditions: The weather was clear with temperatures in the 60's both days.

Participants: Wes Hansen and two of his employees were present on September 26; Paul Baker, DOGM, conducted both inspections.

#### Purpose of Inspection:

The Division had received information from the Bureau of Land Management that there might be an unpermitted quarry operation in the area, so the purpose of these visits was to see whether an operation existed, to see what activities were occurring, and, on October 18, to use a GPS unit to map the site and determine how large it is.

#### Getting to the site:

Starting on U. S. Highway 6 at the top of Price Canyon, go 3.7 miles on the Emma Park road toward U. S. 191 (Indian Canyon). On the north side of the road, there is a gated turnoff leading north, east, then north again toward the quarry. There are a few forks in the road, but it is not hard to see the quarry on the hill and head toward it (Photo 1). It is about 1.5 miles from the Emma Park road to the quarry.

The gate was locked at the time of both visits, and I was told the land owner, Mr. Jensen, does not like people on his property.

#### Observations:

The attached map shows the location and shape of the site. According to Mr. Hansen, the area was previously disturbed, and some of the pad outcrops have oaks and grasses that have been growing there for many years. I was careful to not include these in the measurement of the disturbed area. There were some undisturbed areas within the larger disturbed area.

The operator is quarrying sandstone both from the surface and from the consolidated bedrock. It appears the surface rock is dragged to where it can be split into desired sizes. The operator drills the bedrock deposit and, according to Mr. Hansen, uses gunpowder to break off large pieces. These blocks are then split further as needed. I was able to see the drill holes in the rock and darkened areas where gunpowder was apparently used (Photo 2).

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Quality Building Stone, Amis #1 Quarry (Unpermitted)

S/049/038

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Equipment on the site included a white trailer (not a house trailer or recreational vehicle), a compressor, a small dozer, and a tracked front end loader. See Photos 3 and 4. There was some garbage lying around, including 55-gallon barrels and smaller containers for oil products.

Vegetation in the area is dominated by Gambel's oak, Salina wild rye, and sagebrush, and most of the area has relatively thick soil with a lot of organic matter (Photo 5). The operator has not stockpiled any soil.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

I talked with Mr. Hansen about needing a permit, and he did not think a permit was needed because he is operating on private (patented) land. I told him a permit was needed even for private land, and he emphatically insisted that he was not going to pay royalties to the state for minerals being mined from his own land. I assured him that, if it is indeed private land, the state would not be charging him for royalties but that a permit would still be required.

The site is in an area shown on the 1998 BLM map as belonging to the state (SITLA). I sent a copy of the GPS map I created to John Blake of SITLA, and he responded that there is some patented land in this area. It appears the quarry is on this patented land, but Mr. Blake said the northern boundary of the quarry is very close to the border with state land. The operation should not be expanded to the north or the operator may be trespassing on state land.

There are no perennial drainages in the area, and I saw very little sign of sediment leaving the disturbed area. Sediment and drainage control should not be a serious concern at this site.

The operator needs to begin salvaging topsoil. There are some areas where it could be stockpiled out of the way of the operations, and the operator has equipment on hand that could be used for this purpose.

On October 24, 2002, the Division received a Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, but this notice contains deficiencies that need to be resolved. The Division also needs to receive a clearance from the Division of State History. The Division should consider issuing a notice of noncompliance for conducting mining operations prior to filing a notice of intention to commence small mining operations and for failing to salvage topsoil. All mining operations except topsoil salvage would need to be suspended until the notice is complete.

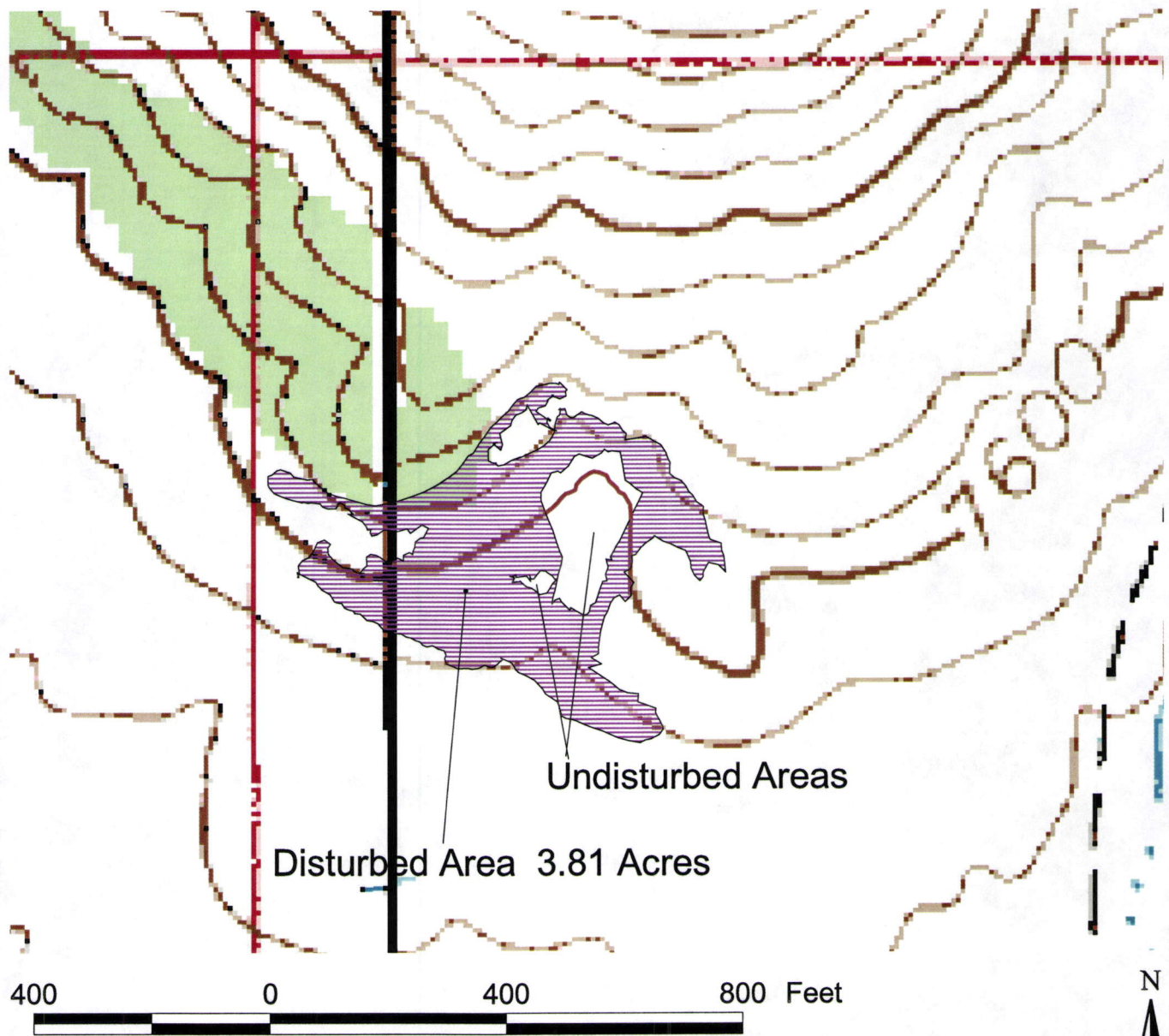
The Division should obtain a current land ownership map of this area to see exactly where the property boundaries are and to ensure the operator does not trespass on the state's land.

jb

cc: John Blake, SITLA

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# Wes Hansen, Quality Building Stone Quarry in Emma Park



Map created October 21, 2002, from data collected October 18, 2002, by Paul Baker. Matts Summit (east) and Kyune (west) quadrangles. Disturbed area is in Township 11 S., Range 9 E., Section 36, SLBM.

This map may not meet Division standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.



ATTACHMENT  
Photographs  
S/049/038, Amis #1 Quarry, Quality Building Stone



Photo 1. Quarry is near the center of the photo.



Photo 2. Drill holes and discolored areas (from gunpowder?) in the bedrock.



Photo 3. Dozer and trailer.

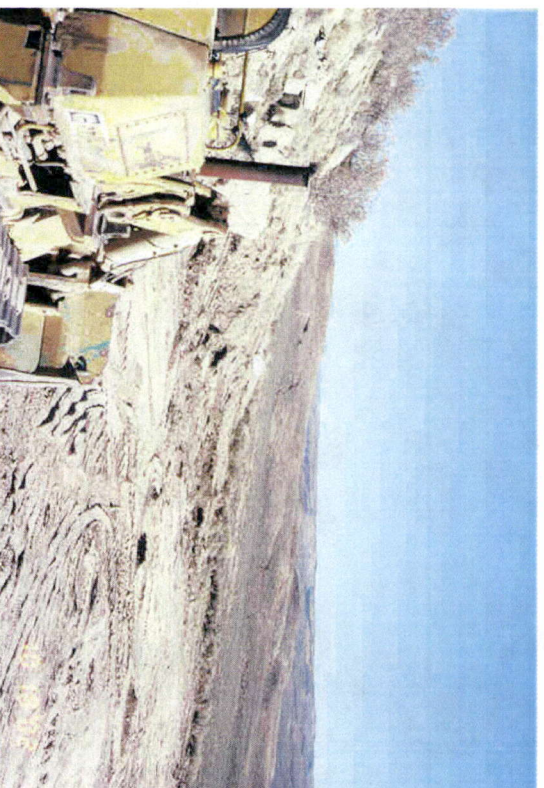


Photo 4. Front end loader near the east end of the disturbed area.



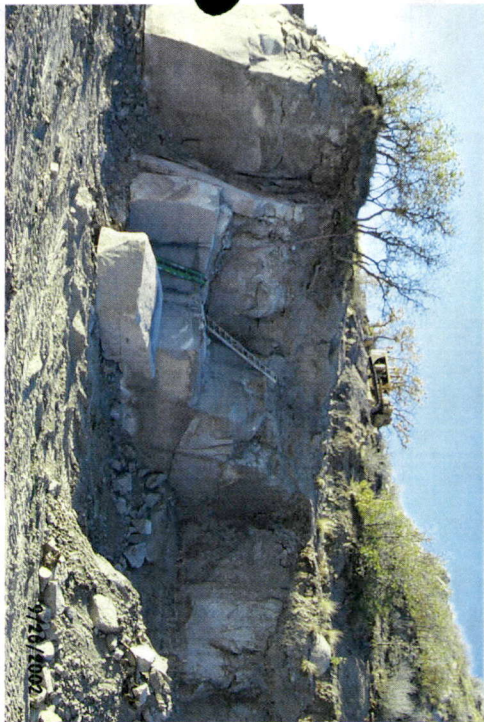


Photo 5. The bedrock sandstone that is being quarried. Note the amount of soil both above the rock and in the working area in the foreground.